

6560 Rock Spring Drive Bethesda, MD 20817 Telephone 301 214 3461 Fax 301 214 7145 Telex 197800

July 1, 1994

Mr. William F. Caton, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Room 222 Washington, D.C. 20554 RECEIVED

JULIE 1 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: <u>RM-7913</u>

Dear Mr. Caton:

COMSAT Corporation, through its COMSAT World Systems line of business, hereby submits an original and five (5) copies of its "Petition for Partial Relief from the Current Regulatory Treatment of COMSAT World Systems' Switched Voice, Private Line, and Video and Audio Services" ("Petition for Partial Relief"). Accompanying this Petition for Partial Relief, and bound in separate volumes, are an original and five (5) copies of an Executive Summary, and a study by The Brattle Group entitled "Competition in the Market for Trans-Oceanic Facilities-Based Telecommunications Services," undertaken in conjunction with Dr. Hendrik S. Houthakker, Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University.

Please associate these filings with the above-captioned proceeding, as they are intended to update the record therein with current market information, and to modify the relief sought by COMSAT Corporation in its January, 1992 "Petition for Rulemaking to Modify the Regulatory Treatment of COMSAT World Systems' Multi-Year Fixed-Price Carrier-to-Carrier Contract-Based Switched-Voice Services." Specifically, this Petition for Partial Relief seeks immediate authority for COMSAT World Systems to file tariffs for all its Intelsat satellite services on a streamlined basis, with 14-days public notice, a presumption of lawfulness, and minimal cost support data.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard D. Polsky

Enclosures

No. of Copies rec'd 0 45 List A B C D E

ORIGINAL

COMPETITION IN THE MARKET
FOR TRANS-OCEANIC
FACILITIES-BASED
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

RECEIVED

JUL = 1 19941

PEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Prepared for COMSAT World Systems Bethesda, Maryland

Professor Hendrik S. Houthakker Harvard University

and

The Brattle Group
50 Church Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

June 24, 1994

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

l.	INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY
	COMSAT'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS 3
	GROWTH OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY 5
	DECLINING COMSAT MARKET SHARES 8
	OUTLINE OF THE STUDY
	SECTION B: METHODS OF ANALYSIS 12
п.	METHODS FOR DEFINING AND MEASURING MARKET POWER 13
	ECONOMIC DEFINITIONS
	Economic Concept of Market Power
	Economic Concept of a "Relevant Market"
	Assessing the Existence of Market Power
	Demand Substitution and Supply Substitution as Constraints on Market
	<i>Power</i>
	Competition from Existing Facilities
	Competition from Planned Facilities
	Competition from the Threat of Entry
	CHOICE OF MARKET SEGMENTS TO ASSESS THE PRESENCE OF EFFECTIVE
	COMPETITION
	Method for Partitioning COMSAT's Services and Geographic Service
	Areas into Market Segments
	Conservatism of the Approach
ш.	THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF COMPETITION
	COMPETITION TO COMSAT FROM EXISTING FACILITIES
	COMPETITION TO COMSAT FROM PLANNED FACILITIES
	COMPETITION TO COMSAT FROM THE THREAT OF ENTRY 26

IV.	RELEVANT MARKET SEGMENTS	7
	Cable and Satellite Services are Close Substitutes 2	7
	Service Market Segments	9
	Switched Voice and Private Line Services	0
	Video and Audio Services	1
	GEOGRAPHIC MARKET SEGMENTS	2
	Switched Voice and Private Line Services	2
	Video and Audio Services	6
	Conclusions	6
v.	DEFINITION AND MEASUREMENT OF MARKET SIZE AND	
	CAPACITY	8
	UTILIZED CAPACITY FOR SWITCHED VOICE AND PRIVATE LINE SERVICES 3	9
	UTILIZED CAPACITY AND REVENUES FOR VIDEO AND AUDIO SERVICES 4	.1
	TOTAL AVAILABLE CAPACITY 4	.2
	Conclusions	3
	SECTION C: ANALYSIS	
VI.	COMPETITION TO COMSAT IN SWITCHED VOICE AND PRIVATE	
	LINE SERVICES	.7
	COMSAT'S MARKET SHARE IN SWITCHED VOICE AND PRIVATE LINE	
	Services	.7
	COMPETITION TO COMSAT FROM PLANNED FACILITIES AND THE THREAT OF	
	Entry 5	0
	Competition to COMSAT from Planned Trans-Oceanic Cable Systems 5	3
	Competition to COMSAT from Planned Trans-Oceanic Satellite Systems 5	4
	Competition to COMSAT from the Threat of Entry 5	6
	Summary 5	8
	DISAGGREGATION OF SERVICE SEGMENTS INTO SWITCHED VOICE AND PRIVATE	
	Line Services	0
	COMSAT's Share of Switched Voice Services	0
	COMSAT's Share of Private Line Services	2
	Conclusions	5

VII.	COMPETITION TO COMSAT IN VIDEO AND AUDIO SERVICES 66
	COMSAT'S MARKET SHARE IN UTILIZED CAPACITY FOR VIDEO AND AUDIO
	Services
	COMSAT'S MARKET SHARE IN VIDEO AND AUDIO REVENUES
	COMPETITION FROM FACILITIES NOT REFLECTED IN CURRENT AND PROJECTED
	Market Shares
	COMPETITION TO COMSAT FROM THE THREAT OF ENTRY FOR VIDEO AND
	Audio Services
	Conclusions
VIII.	COMPETITION FROM AVAILABLE FACILITIES AND IDLE
	CAPACITY
	COMSAT'S DECLINING SHARE OF AVAILABLE TRANS-OCEANIC CAPACITY 79
	IDLE CAPACITY ON COMPETING FACILITIES
	Idle Capacity on Competing Trans-Oceanic Cable Systems 84
	Idle Capacity on Competing Trans-Oceanic Satellite Systems 92
	Conclusions
IX.	OTHER EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVE COMPETITION
	COST COMPARISON OF SATELLITE AND CABLE TECHNOLOGY
	SOPHISTICATION AND BARGAINING POWER OF CUSTOMERS
	Absence of Geographic Rate Differentiation
	COMSAT RATE TRENDS
	Proliferation of Services
	Conclusions
X.	OVERALL CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY 104
	Assessing Effective Competition
	Market Segmentation
	Competition to COMSAT in Switched Voice and Private Line Services . 106
	COMPETITION TO COMSAT IN VIDEO AND AUDIO SERVICES
	AVAILABLE FACILITIES AND IDLE CAPACITY
	Other Measures of Effective Competition
	SUMMARY

SECTION D

ABOUT TH	ABOUT THE AUTHORS 110		
EXHIBITS			
LIST OF T	ABLES		
Table 1	Comparison of COMSAT and its Major Customers		
Table 2	Structure of Competition in Switched Voice and Private Line Services 37		
Table 3	Structure of Competition in Video and Audio Services		
Table 4	Effective Competition in Switched Voice and Private Line Services 59		
Table 5	Effective Competition in Video and Audio Services		

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Growth in Retail Telecommunications Traffic of USISCs
Figure 2	Utilized Capacity for Trans-Oceanic Service: COMSAT vs. Other Carriers
Figure 3	Utilized Capacity for Trans-Oceanic Service
Figure 4	Utilized Capacity for Switched Voice and Private Line Services: COMSAT vs. Trans-Oceanic Cable Systems
Figure 5	COMSAT Market Shares in Utilized Capacity for Trans-Oceanic Switched Voice and Private Line Services
Figure 6	Utilized Capacity for Trans-Oceanic Switched Voice and Private Line Services
Figure 7	Market Size and COMSAT Market Shares of Trans-Oceanic Switched Voice and Private Line Services (1993)
Figure 8	COMSAT Shares of AT&T Switched Voice Services
Figure 9	COMSAT Shares of AT&T Private Line Services
Figure 10	COMSAT Shares of AT&T Switched Voice and Private Line Services (1993)
Figure 11	Utilized Capacity for Trans-Oceanic Video and Audio Services 67
Figure 12	Utilized Capacity for Trans-Oceanic Video and Audio Services: COMSAT vs. Separate Satellite Systems

Figui	re 13	COMSAT Market Shares in Utilized Capacity for Trans-Oceanic Video and Audio Services	70
Figu	re 14	Market Growth and COMSAT Incremental Market Shares of Trans-Oceanic Video and Audio Services	71
Figu	re 15	Revenues from Trans-Oceanic Video and Audio Services	73
Figur	re 16	COMSAT Market Shares in Revenues from Trans-Oceanic Video and Audio Services	74
Figu	re 17	Available Trans-Oceanic Telecommunications Capacity	81
Figu	re 18	Available Capacity in the Atlantic Ocean Region: COMSAT vs. Other Carriers	82
Figu	re 19	Available Capacity in the Pacific Ocean Region: COMSAT vs. Other Carriers	83
Figu	re 20	COMSAT Share of Available Trans-Oceanic Capacity	85
Figu	re 21	Available vs. Utilized Trans-Oceanic Capacity	86
Figu	re 22	Idle Capacity on Trans-Atlantic Cable Systems	88
Figu	re 23	Idle Capacity on Trans-Pacific Cable Systems	90
Figu	re 24	Idle Capacity on Trans-Caribbean Cable Systems	91

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

....

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This report analyzes the markets in which COMSAT World Systems ("COMSAT") competes to determine the degree of competition that it faces in providing trans-oceanic facilities-based telecommunications services to and from the United States.

Since 1964, COMSAT has been the sole U.S. provider of international satellite communications services on the Intelsat system.¹ In that role, it has been subjected to full rate of return and tariff regulation by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In recent years, however, COMSAT's "monopoly" has been eroded dramatically by changes in regulatory policies and competitive market conditions. A fresh look at effective competition in the market for COMSAT's services is warranted in light of these changed circumstances.²

The most important features of today's marketplace for trans-oceanic facilities-based telecommunications services may be summarized as follows:

- COMSAT's market share is low and declining;
- The international telecommunications market is growing rapidly, with incumbents and new entrants expanding capacity at a very high rate;
- There is a large amount of idle capacity readily available on facilities competing with COMSAT;

COMSAT World Systems, a COMSAT Corporation line of business, is the U.S. Signatory to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization ("Intelsat"). Intelsat is an international cooperative organization which owns, operates and manages a global satellite network. Today, Intelsat consists of 133 member nations represented by their signatories, which are currently a mix of government-owned postal and telecommunications administrations (PTTs) and private corporations.

The FCC last reviewed the level of competition in the markets served by COMSAT nearly ten years ago. In 1985, the Commission concluded in its *International Competitive Carrier* proceeding, 102 FCC 2d 812, 838-39 (1985), that COMSAT was dominant in the provision of space-segment capacity. The Commission essentially relied upon its satellite-cable loading policy (which required COMSAT's carrier customers to allocate their international traffic between satellites and undersea cables) and the lack of competitive alternatives as the bases for this classification. *Id.* at n. 64. These conditions have since disappeared. The FCC has discontinued its facility loading policy, and competitive alternatives have emerged in the form of fiber optic cables and separate satellite systems. However, these changes have not yet been reflected in the regulatory oversight of COMSAT.

- Effective competition in this industry also takes place in the form of contracting for facilities prior to the time they go into service and from the threat of entry;
- The direct costs of trans-oceanic fiber optic cable and satellite technology are now fully competitive;
- COMSAT's customers are large, sophisticated buyers who in many cases also have their own competing facilities; and
- COMSAT has reacted to the competitive pressure by decreasing rates and introducing a variety of new service offerings.

For these reasons, this study concludes that COMSAT faces substantial effective competition in all geographic and service market segments from existing and planned fiber optic cables and separate satellite facilities, as well as from the threat of entry. Stated differently, while COMSAT possesses a legal monopoly on access to the Intelsat system in the U.S., that franchise no longer confers upon COMSAT any market power. In an environment characterized by effective competition, a streamlining of regulatory oversight would be appropriate.

COMSAT'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

This study focuses on the market for trans-oceanic facilities-based telecommunications services between the U.S. and overseas locations.³ In this marketplace, COMSAT generally offers space segment capacity, pursuant to tariff or inter-carrier contracts, for trans-oceanic telecommunications services on Intelsat satellites. COMSAT's customers are primarily U.S. international service carriers (USISCs), multi-national corporations, and TV networks.

Because COMSAT does not serve most telecommunications end users directly, it is generally viewed as a "carrier's carrier." In that role, COMSAT is a "wholesale" supplier of trans-

This does not include traffic between the contiguous states of the U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Mexico, and Canada. Traffic from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii to the U.S. territories in the Pacific is included; traffic from the U.S. territories in the Pacific to other overseas locations is excluded. The scope of this study does not include trans-oceanic mobile telecommunications services, occasional use TV services, and cable restoration services.

oceanic satellite circuits and transponder leases to customers that provide "retail" international communications services to end users.

As a supplier of trans-oceanic telecommunications facilities, COMSAT represents only one choice among competing trans-oceanic facilities that customers can utilize to transmit and receive international telecommunications traffic to and from the U.S. Today, undersea fiber-optic cable systems represent a proliferating medium of choice for most USISCs in providing switched voice and private line services. Moreover, trans-oceanic cables may soon start to provide video and audio services. Separate satellite systems⁴ now also compete actively with COMSAT in private line, video and audio, and (more recently) in switched voice services.⁵

Customers acquire capacity on competing cable and separate satellite systems through long-term commitments, either by ownership arrangements or explicit long-term contracts that often cover the useful life of a facility even before it is placed into service. With the emerging competition from fiber optic cables and separate satellite systems in the late 1980s, COMSAT has also supplemented its traditional monthly leases with long-term contract options. The shift to long-term commitments or ownership of capacity has caused the focal point of competition to shift from existing facilities to include competition for the pre-subscription of planned and potential facilities.

Separate satellite systems are non-Intelsat satellites competing in the market for trans-oceanic facilities-based telecommunication services. The fact that they were allowed to provide trans-oceanic service to and from the U.S. once differentiated them from strictly domestic or regional satellite systems. To protect the economic viability of the world-wide telecommunications satellite system, Intelsat (through its U.S. Signatory, COMSAT) originally had been granted the exclusive right to provide trans-oceanic satellite-based telecommunications services to and from the U.S. In the mid 1980s, however, the FCC authorized other international satellite systems separate from Intelsat ("separate satellite systems") to compete with COMSAT and Intelsat. Domestic and regional satellite systems also have been allowed to provide trans-oceanic services to the extent their coverage area allows. As a result, COMSAT is no longer the exclusive U.S. provider of trans-oceanic telecommunications satellite services.

Since separate satellite systems have started operations in 1988, the largest existing separate satellite system, PanAmSat, has already grown to \$40 million in 1992 revenues with a net income of more than \$17 million. By 1998, PanAmSat expects to grow to approximately \$320 million in revenues with a net income of \$97 million. (See PanAmSat SEC Form S-1, filed May 25, 1993 at A-7 (hereinafter "PAS SEC Form S-1 at __").) By comparison, COMSAT's total Intelsat service revenues in 1992 were \$253 million. (See 1992 COMSAT SEC Form 10-K at 3).

Beyond this, COMSAT is in the unusual situation where its main customers are also its strongest competitors. COMSAT's three main USISC customers (AT&T, MCI, and Sprint), accounting for the majority of COMSAT's total demand, are vertically integrated companies that own most of the competing trans-oceanic cable facilities. **Table 1** shows that each of these corporations dwarfs COMSAT in size by factors ranging from 10 to 200.

TABLE 1

COMPARISON OF COMSAT CORPORATION AND ITS MAJOR USISC CUSTOMERS

Company	1993 Revenues	1993 Operating Income	1993 Total Assets	Employees
COMSAT	\$0.6 billion	\$138 million	\$1.7 billion	1,527
АТ&Т	\$67.2 billion	\$6,238 million	\$60.8 billion	308,700
MCI	\$11.9 billion	\$1,268 million	\$11.3 billion	36,235
Sprint	\$11.4 billion	\$1,251 million	\$14.1 billion	52,500

Source: 1993 Annual Reports. Sprint Employees from Value Line April 15, 1994.

The fact that many of COMSAT's customers also own capacity on trans-oceanic cable systems gives them little incentive to establish additional telecommunications circuits through COMSAT as long as idle capacity exists on their own facilities. These customers as well as most others, such as large television broadcasters and international corporations, are highly sophisticated and possess enormous bargaining power.

GROWTH OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

International telecommunications service is a large and rapidly expanding business. The need for trans-oceanic facility-based telecommunication services is driven by the demand for "retail" international telecommunications service to end users. More than 1.5 billion voice messages totalling approximately 10 billion minutes were transmitted between the U.S. and overseas locations in 1992. In 1992, trans-oceanic switched voice services also amounted to approximately \$5.5 billion in retained revenues from traffic originating or terminating in the

U.S.⁶ This compares to 1985 retained revenues of only \$1.8 billion⁷ and represents an average annual growth rate of 17.5 percent.

Figure 1 (on page 7) illustrates the growth in switched voice traffic of USISCs to and from the U.S. measured in number of messages, minutes, and revenues. The three measures of telecommunications traffic show very high growth rates, averaging between 16 and 22 percent annually from 1985 through 1992. These growth rates show that traffic doubles approximately every four years. As a result, utilized capacity for switched voice services has increased significantly despite the fact that digital compression technology already packs about three voice circuits into the capacity traditionally required for one.⁸

Demand for private line, and video and audio services is growing at a very similar pace. In fact, utilized capacity for trans-oceanic private line, video and audio services to and from the U.S. has quadrupled between 1988 and 1993.9

In addition, the number of trans-oceanic telecommunications facilities and players in the market has grown dramatically. To keep pace with demand, USISCs have increased rapidly the number of telecommunication circuits that serve overseas locations. Between 1987 and 1993, available

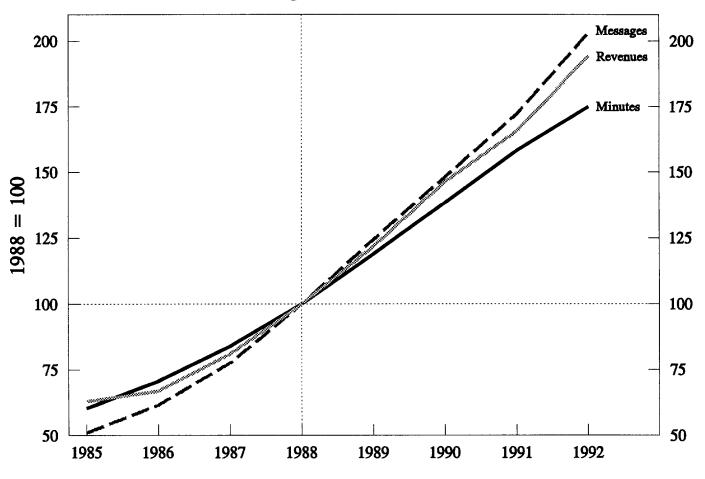
⁶ FCC Common Carrier Bureau, Industry Analysis Division, *Preliminary 1992 Section 43.61 International Telecommunications Data* (Sep. 1993). (Excludes telecommunications traffic to and from Canada, Mexico, and non-contiguous U.S. points.) Retained revenues equal billed revenues minus net foreign settlement charges.

FCC Common Carrier Bureau, Industry Analysis Division, International Communications Service Data 1985-1988: A Summary (Dec. 21, 1989).

For a discussion of utilized capacity for switched voice service, see Chapter VI. Note that AT&T's average compression rate on leased COMSAT circuits has increased from 1.1 in 1988 to 2.6 in 1993 (See Exhibit HSH-3).

⁹ See Chapters VI and VII.

Figure 1
Growth in Retail Telecommunications Traffic of USISCs (Switched Voice Service in Messages, Revenues and Minutes to and from the U.S.)



NOTES:

Excludes Canada, Mexico, and non-contiguous U.S. points.

Sources: FCC International Communications Service Data 1985-1988: A Summary.

FCC International Communications Traffic Data Report 1989, 1990, and 1991.

FCC Preliminary 1992 Section 43.61 International Telecommunications Data.

trans-oceanic capacity more than quadrupled. By 1996, additions of *planned*¹⁰ facilities will, again, more than double currently available capacity.¹¹

DECLINING COMSAT MARKET SHARES

The rapid growth of trans-oceanic telecommunications demand has resulted in a large number of new facilities that compete directly with COMSAT. Since 1988, COMSAT has lost significant market share to fiber optic cable and separate satellite systems. Figure 2 (on page 9) shows the total market size of trans-oceanic switched voice, private line, video and audio services measured in utilized capacity to and from the U.S.¹² While the total market has almost doubled, COMSAT has experienced only very modest increases. Simply stated, COMSAT's market share of total utilized capacity to and from the U.S. has dropped from more than 70 percent in 1988 to approximately 45 percent in 1993.

This trend is representative of the situation that COMSAT faces for its services world-wide, although market shares vary across different services and geographic regions. In the interest of being conservative, this study analyzes market shares for individual service categories and geographic market segments.

OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

To assess the competitiveness of trans-oceanic facilities-based telecommunications services, the remainder of this report is divided into two sections. Section B discusses the methodology, data

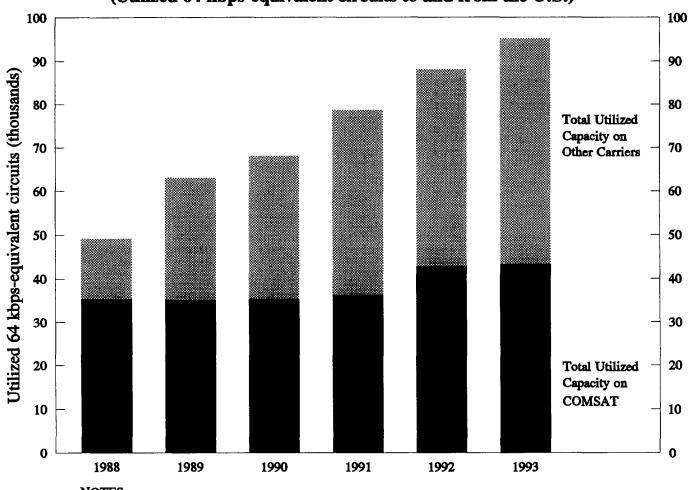
Throughout this report, facilities referred to as *planned* facilities are those which have been authorized by the FCC (and/or are already under construction) and will come on line before the end of 1996. For this study, 1996 is chosen as a reasonable time horizon to identify planned facilities. In order to come on line before the end of 1996, cable and satellite projects will already be sufficiently advanced in planning, pre-subscription, and/or construction stages to consider their market entry more a matter of fact than threat.

¹¹ See Chapter VIII.

Total utilized capacity has grown less rapidly than private line, video and audio, and retail switched voice services. The reason is the successful introduction of digital compression technology for trans-oceanic facilities-based switched voice service.

Figure 2
Utilized Capacity for Trans-Oceanic Service:
COMSAT vs. Other Carriers

(Utilized 64 kbps-equivalent circuits to and from the U.S.)



NOTES:

One 36/27 Mhz-equivalent transponder lease is equal to 275 64 kbps-equivalent duplex circuits. Does not include utilized capacity for switched voice and private line services on separate satellite systems. See Chapter V for a further discussion of data sources and assumptions.

Source: Exhibits HSH-5.1 and HSH-6.1

and assumptions used in this study. Section C applies these principles to the market data and presents the analysis of effective competition.

Within Section B, Chapter II defines market power and identifies the principles of market segmentation to analyze effective competition. This chapter also explains how market power should be measured.

Chapter III discusses the implications of the three dimensions of competition in this industry: (1) competition from existing facilities; (2) competition from planned facilities; and (3) competition from the threat of entry.¹³

Chapter IV identifies and describes the services and geographic market segments used to determine the degree of effective competition.

Chapter V discusses briefly the data sources and assumptions used in this study. Detailed data on COMSAT and AT&T utilized capacity are used to estimate the total utilized capacity for switched voice and private line services for each geographic market segment. For video and audio services, it was possible to estimate the total volume in utilized capacity and in revenues. These estimates are based on publicly available data from operators of separate satellite systems and from COMSAT.

Turning to Section C, Chapter VI examines the degree of effective competition in switched voice and private line services. Although the level of competition from existing facilities varies across regions, the data show that COMSAT faces substantial effective competition in providing switched voice and private line services in all geographic market segments. This conclusion also holds true individually for switched voice services and for private line services.

Competition from the threat of entry includes (1) the threat of new trans-oceanic facilities entering the market and (2) the threat that existing facilities enter market segments they have not been serving in the past. In the economic literature, competition from the threat of entry is also referred to as competition from "potential" entry and is defined as "the possibility of new competition from firms who are not currently producing competing products" (D. Pearce, *The MIT Dictionary of Modern Economics*, 3rd ed., 1989). Potential entry is a very real and effective type of competition that this industry faces today.

Chapter VII applies a similar analytical structure to video and audio services. Although market shares in some regions are still high, COMSAT currently faces substantial competition in all geographic market segments. Competition from planned facilities, the threat of entry of new facilities, and the fact that existing and planned fiber optic cable systems may soon provide trans-oceanic video and audio services all preclude COMSAT from obtaining market power.

Chapter VIII quantifies the amount of total available and idle capacity that currently exists for services to individual geographic market segments. Available capacity has been growing at a rapid pace. Further limiting COMSAT's market power, cable competitors currently have sufficient idle capacity to absorb all of COMSAT's traffic to regions that are easily accessible by existing and planned cable systems. Similarly, existing and planned separate satellite systems will be able to accommodate most or all of COMSAT's traffic to regions where cable does not yet compete.

Chapter IX discusses other evidence of effective competition facing COMSAT today. The analysis shows that: (1) a rapid decline in costs has made fiber optic technology highly competitive with satellite technology; (2) COMSAT's customers are large, very sophisticated and have enormous bargaining power; (3) the absence of significant geographic rate differentiation effectively constrains COMSAT's market power in geographic areas that face less competition from existing and planned cable systems; (4) COMSAT's rates have declined significantly since intermodal and intramodal competition have emerged; and (5) COMSAT has responded to increased competition by introducing a variety of new rates and service offerings.

SECTION B: METHODS OF ANALYSIS

II. METHODS FOR DEFINING AND MEASURING MARKET POWER

ECONOMIC DEFINITIONS

Economic Concept of Market Power

Economists generally agree that a firm has "market power"¹⁴ if, absent regulation, it can raise and maintain prices above competitive levels.¹⁵ Market power may also be thought of as the absence of effective competition. Hereafter, this study shall refer either to "market power" or the absence of "effective competition."

Firms with market power have the ability to raise prices above competitive levels, restrain the choice of products or services available to customers, restrict the volume of services available to customers, and control the process of innovation. In those situations, economic regulation of rates and entry is generally regarded as a means to control the exploitation of market power and thus to ensure that customers receive the benefits of competitive prices, *i.e.*, those that

Most economists would offer similar definitions. See Landes and Posner, Market Power in Antitrust Cases, 94 Harv. L. Rev. 937 (1981):

The term "market power" refers to the ability of a firm (or a group of firms, acting jointly) to raise price above the competitive level without losing so many sales so rapidly that the price increase is unprofitable and must be rescinded.

Sometimes the terms market power and monopoly power are used synonymously. However, I shall simply use market power in the sense defined above.

This definition of market power is consistent with that of the Supreme Court: "the power to control prices or exclude competition." *United States v. E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co.*, 351 U.S. 377 (1956). It is also consistent with the standard posed by the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission in *The 1992 Horizontal Merger Guidelines Commentary and Text*, ABA Antitrust Section (1992) ("Merger Guidelines"):

Market power to a seller is the ability profitably to maintain prices above competitive levels for a significant period of time. [footnote omitted] In some circumstances, a sole seller (a monopolist) of a product with no good substitutes can maintain a selling price that is above the level that would prevail if the market were competitive. *Merger Guidelines* §0.1.

would have occurred had the regulated firm been subject to effective competition.¹⁶ Conversely, a regulated firm that has lost market power because of the emergence of effective competition may not be able to compete fully if regulation restricts pricing flexibility relative to unregulated competitors or if it prevents the firm from pricing at the competitive level. In such cases, the public interest would require regulation to adjust to these changes in market power to ensure a level playing field and fair competition.

Economic Concept of a "Relevant Market"

To be meaningful, the concept of market power must refer to an appropriately defined market in which a firm is purported to have power. Analysis of effective competition therefore often begins with a structural analysis of the "relevant markets" in which the firm operates, typically consisting of relevant product and geographic markets. A relevant market may be thought

Absent price discrimination, the Agency will delineate the product market to be a product or group of products such that a hypothetical profit-maximizing firm that was the only present and future seller of those products (monopolist) likely would impose at least a "small but significant and nontransitory" increase in price. (Merger Guidelines §1.11.)

Regarding geographic markets:

Absent price discrimination, the Agency will delineate the geographic market to be a region such that a hypothetical monopolist that was the only present or future producer of the relevant product at locations in that region would profitably impose at least a "small but significant and nontransitory" increase in price, holding constant the terms of sale for all products produced elsewhere. (Merger Guidelines §1.21.)

For further discussion of geographic markets, see W. Curran III, "Relevant Markets in Antitrust," The Journal of Reprints for Antitrust Law and Economics, Vol. XIV, No. 2 (1984).

In the presence of price discrimination, the *Merger Guidelines* state that ". . .the Agency may delineate different relevant markets corresponding to each buyer group." (*Merger Guidelines* §1.0.) As explained below, geographic rate differences are becoming a thing of the past for COMSAT. Furthermore, (continued...)

See J. Bonbright, A. Danielsen, and D. Kamerschen, Principles of Public Utility Rates (Public Utilities Reports, Inc., Arlington, VA, 1988), at 158:

^{. . .} rate regulation must necessarily try to accomplish the major objectives that unregulated competition is designed to accomplish. . . .

¹⁷ See Merger Guidelines regarding product markets:

of as the collection of goods or services over which a hypothetical firm (consisting of all suppliers to the market) could exercise market power.¹⁸ It is sometimes said that a market is defined when there is a "marked gap in the chain of substitutes."¹⁹

Defining relevant markets involves identification of (1) all of the alternative products and geographic areas to which buyers would turn and (2) all sellers of identical products, close substitutes, and potential new entrants that would respond if a firm attempted to exercise power over price. The end result of identifying all competing products and all sellers is a relevant market for an analysis of effective competition.

Most economists would agree. See, e.g., R. Schmalensee, "Standards for Dominant Firm Conduct: What Can Economists Contribute?" in J. Vickers and D. Hay, The Economics of Market Dominance (New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987) at 63.

For the purposes of assessing market power, it is logical to follow Areeda and Turner (1978, p. 347) and define a relevant market for antitrust purposes as 'a firm or group of firms which, if unified by agreement or merger, would have market power.' In other words, a market is an aggregation (over space and/or products) of outputs that could profitably be monopolized, at least in the short run. (The smallest such aggregate should generally be the focus of analysis.)

¹⁷(...continued)

COMSAT's intercarrier contracts specify that customers have rights to lower rates granted to other carrier customers. Lastly, the disaggregation of services and geographic areas responds to the concerns of the *Merger Guidelines* by accounting for the major buyer groups.

¹⁸ See Merger Guidelines:

^{...} the Agency evaluates the likely competitive impact of a merger within the context of economically meaningful markets — i.e., markets that could be subject to the exercise of market power. (Merger Guidelines §1.0.)

J. Robinson, The Economics of Imperfect Competition (1933), at 5-6.

ASSESSING THE EXISTENCE OF MARKET POWER

Demand Substitution and Supply Substitution as Constraints on Market Power

Having defined the concepts of market power and the relevant market in which it could be exercised, the next step is usually to identify constraints on a firm's market power. These usually take the form of demand substitution and supply substitution.²⁰

The firm's customers may switch to alternative suppliers of the same product or to suppliers of close substitutes, in response to a firm's attempt to raise prices.²¹ This loss of business to competitors may in turn make the price increase unprofitable. If so, the availability of substitutes prevents the firm from exercising power over price, and the firm's market power is said to be nonexistent because of demand substitution.

Supply substitutability measures the ability of a service provider to shift its resources from providing one product or service to another product or service in response to changes in market conditions, such as higher prices set by a firm in an attempt to exercise market power. If alternative service providers would supply the market whenever the firm raised prices and thereby make such an attempt unprofitable, then the firm has no market power because of *supply substitution*.²²

For a discussion of the difference between demand substitution and supply substitution, see F. Fisher, "Diagnosing Monopoly," Quarterly Review of Economies and Business, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Summer, 1979), at 7-33; reprinted in J. Monz, Industrial Organization, Economics and the Law (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1991).

This concept is often referred to as "cross-elasticity." See J. Greenfield, The Use of Economists in Antitrust Litigation (American Bar Association, Antitrust Law Section, 1984), at 7.

In antitrust cases, product market boundaries are generally determined by cross-elasticity of demand — i.e., "the responsiveness of the sales of one product to price changes of the other." [footnote omitted] Two different products will likely be grouped as part of a single product market if they can be used interchangeably and have a high cross elasticity of demand — that is, increased demand of one results from an increase in the price of the other.

See F. Scherer and D. Ross, Industrial Market Structure and Economic Performance (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1990), at 17-18:

The two key factors affecting supply substitutability are the ability of existing suppliers to provide similar competing services and the ability of new suppliers to enter the market. The ease of entry hinges on the existence of entry barriers.²³ The lack of substantial entry barriers permits a supplier to shift its facilities and resources from providing one service to providing another service.

Competition from Existing Facilities

Data on the availability and utilization of existing facilities to which buyers could turn may provide evidence of both supply substitution and demand substitution. However, a simple measure cannot quantify the full extent of effective competition from services provided by existing facilities.

For example, market share is one factor used in determining the presence of effective competition from existing facilities.²⁴ If COMSAT's market share is low in the competition

²²(...continued)

^{...} significant entry barriers are the *sine qua non* of monopoly and oligopoly, for as we shall see in later chapters, sellers have little or no enduring power over price when entry barriers are nonexistent.

See D. Pearce, The Dictionary of Modern Economics, 3rd ed. 1989, at 36, defining barriers to entry as: "Factors which place new entrants at a cost disadvantage relative to established firms within an industry." See also "Concepts and Effects of Barriers to Entry," The Journal of Reprints for Antitrust Law and Economics, Vol. XIV, No. 1 (1983).

The use of market shares is also consistent with the FCC's methodology in previous proceedings. (See Competition in the Interstate Interexchange Marketplace, 6 FCC Rcd 5880 (1991) ("Interexchange Marketplace"). For this reason, this study shall focus on COMSAT's market share, since its alleged market power is at issue.

The Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission also use the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) to measure market power for the purpose of considering whether to challenge mergers with anticompetitive potential. However, calculation of the HHI for a market segment requires information of the market shares of all firms, which may not be available in many of the market segments of interest here. For a discussion of HHI, see R. Miller, "The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index as a Market Structure Variable: An Exposition for Antitrust Practitioners," The Antitrust Bulletin, Vol. 27 (1983), at 593-618; "Statement by Attorney General William French Smith Releasing the New Department of Justice Merger Guidelines" (June 14, 1982): The Antitrust Bulletin, Vol. 26 (Fall, 1982), at 619-301; and P. Pautler, "A Guide to the Herfindahl Index for Antitrust Attorneys," Research in Law and Economics, Vol. 5 (1983), at 167-190.